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NC 56272

TOR:140843Z APR 76

State Dept. review completed

R 140731Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, YO

SUBJECT: INITIAL YUGOSLAV REACTION TO SECRETARY'S LOS ADDRESS

REF : STATE 85109

1. EMBASSY CONSELOR, FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PROVIDED  
REFTEL, MET APRIL 13 WITH MILAN KOMATINA, GOY  
ASSISTANT FEDERAL SECRETARY FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS,  
TO DELIVER AND DISCUSS TEXT OF ADDRESS MADE BY SECRETARY  
ON LAW OF THE SEA TO FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION MEETING  
IN NEW YORK.

2. KOMATINA WAS WELL INFORMED ON AREAS OF AGREEMENT --  
I.E., 12 MILES, 200 MILES, STRAITS PASSAGE ISSUES --  
BUT SAID HE WAS NOT INFORMED IN DETAIL ABOUT THE  
"DIFFICULT PROBLEM" OF SEABED MINERAL EXPLOITATION.  
HE REMARKED THAT THE ASSUMED YUGOSLAV EXPERTS AT  
LOS CONFERENCE WERE IN TOUCH WITH US SIDE.

3. KOMATINA WENT ON AT LENGTH ABOUT HOW HE HOPED TO  
STUDY THIS SPEECH IN GREAT DETAIL, AS HE HAD DONE THE  
SECRETARY'S ADDRESS TO THE UN 7TH SPECIAL SESSION  
LAST YEAR. HE NOTED THAT THE USG'S 7TH SESSION  
INITIATIVES WERE IN THE MAIN CONSTRUCTIVE FROM THE  
YUGOSLAV POINT OF VIEW, AND HOPED ON BASIS OF WHAT HAD  
BEEN JUST PRESENTED TO HIM BY CONSELOR TO FIND THAT  
LOS SPEECH WAS IN SAME CATEGORY. BUT, HE ADDED, THE  
CONFERENCE MUST FIND ITS WAY TO A CONSENSUS AND THAT  
IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL TO WORK UNDER THE "PRESSURE  
OF ULTIMATUMS." HE ALSO SAID LOS HAD TO BE  
VIEWED IN CIEC AND UNCTAD CONTEXT.

4. AT THIS POINT CONSELOR MENTIONED THAT BOTH  
TANJUG AND BORBA HAD CONCENTRATED ON SECRETARY'S  
STATEMENTS THAT IS SOLUTION TO LOS ISSUES NOT  
REACHED THIS YEAR ALL NATION WOULD LOSE  
UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY, REST OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH

C O N F I D E N T I A L

*NY*  
*Yugoslavia*  
*Views on K speech*

*120*

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LARGELY IGNORED, AND PART THAT WAS COVERED DISTORTED BY PRESS INTO AN ULTIMATUM. KOMATINA, WHILE HE MAINTAINED STEADFAST POSTURE THAT THE NON-ALIGNED IN GENERAL WOULD NOT BUCKLE BEFORE ANY PRESSURE FROM ANY QUARTER, DID GO ON THE DEFENSIVE WITH RESPECT TO YUGOSLAV MEDIA TREATMENT OF LOS SPEECH, SAYING THAT IT WAS SIMILAR TO SITUATION AT 7TH SPECIAL SESSION WHEN MINIC HAD BEEN PUT IN AWKWARD POSITION OF REFERRING PUBLICLY TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN A POSITIVE MANNER WHILE AT THE SAME TIME YUGOSLAV PRESS WAS LAMBASTING IT. SILBERMAN

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